

Prize-Winning Plants Aimed at Students Grades 3-5



Everyone's green thumb is put to the test as the tree house detectives attempt to grow an award-winning pineapple plant for the upcoming state fair. The tree house becomes a greenhouse as the detectives experiment with growing the perfect plant. They visit Ms. Lori Jones at NASA Kennedy Space Center (KSC) to learn why carbon dioxide (CO_2) is important to plants. Ms. Jones sends the detectives on to Dr. Gregory Goins to learn all about the correct quantity and quality of light for plants. The next stop for the detectives is NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX where Dr. Susan Steinberg explains how to grow a plant in a pot! Then it is back to KSC. They meet Dr. Anna-Lisa Paul and learn about reporter genes and how bio-engineered genes will help to grow plants on Mars. Finally, the detectives visit the beautiful islands of Hawaii to explore a rainforest, a pineapple plantation, and to learn about volcanic soil.

The NASA Science Files is an Emmy®-award winning, research and standards-based, integrated mathematics, science, and technology instructional distance learning series that uses Problem-Based Learning (PBL) to teach students in grades 3-5 about science as inquiry. Nationwide, about 200,000 educators, representing 4.5 million students, are registered users of the NASA Science Files.

Register today! Tune in to the debut of "The Case of the Prize Winning Plants" on February 18, 2004. Details are at <http://scifiles.larc.nasa.gov>

